

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W
----- 092364

R 291202Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5611
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJ: POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: STATE 90807, NEW DELHI 5652

1. ACCORDING TO CONGEN AND EMBASSY ESTIMATES, THERE ARE A MINIMUM OF 17,600 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDIAN JAILS COUNTRYWIDE. THIS IS A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE BASED ON A STATE-BY-STATE COUNT. ALL OR ALMOST ALL PRISONERS CLASSIFIED AS POLITICAL ARE MISA DETAINEES. AS WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHETHER AN ARREST IS POLITICAL OR NOT; THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MANY LISTED IN ECONOMIC CATEGORIES WERE IN FACT JAILED FOR POLITICAL REASONS. THE 17,600 FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE THESE ARRESTEES, ALTHOUGH THEY COULD NUMBER IN THE THOUSANDS.

2. GOI AND STATE OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO DIVULGE STATISTICS ON THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS OR NUMBERS OF PRISONERS STILL IN JAIL FOR EMERGENCY-RELATED OFFENSES. WE ESTIMATE THAT A TOTAL NUMBER OF 50,000 TO 80,000 PRISONERS

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ARRESTED FOR EMERGENCY-RELATED REASONS MAY STILL BE IN

JAIL. THIS ESTIMATE ON ALL CATEGORIES OF PRISONERS STILL
IN JAIL ROUGHLY CONCIDES WITH OUR FEBRUARY ESTIMATE
(NEW DELHI 2533) SINCE WE HAVE SEEN NO RELIABLE INDICATIONS
THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED IN
THE INTERIM. ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST ESTIMATE, THERE ARE
29 MP'S IN JAIL.

SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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